



GAU 2184

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

EGAN et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,109

Filed: May 2, 2001

Atty. File No.: 3123-355

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
THE DETECTION OF MULTIPLE  
SMALL DEFECTS IN A FLAW SCAN)  
DETECTION SYSTEM

Group Art Unit: 2184

Examiner:

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING  
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, WASHINGTON,  
DC 20231 ON July 13, 2001.

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

BY:

*Aimee M. Shuck*

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Although Applicants do not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account 19-1970.

AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 at line 12 and ending on page 3, line 4 with the following paragraph:

In order to help prevent delivery of computer disk drives having defects in storage media to end users, disk drives are typically tested for such defects.

According to a typical testing procedure, data is written to the storage media in a test pattern. The test pattern is then read from the storage media and the results of the read operation are compared to the expected results. For example, a signal produced in the channel of a hard disk drive as a result of reading the test pattern may be periodically sampled, and the amplitudes of the samples may be compared

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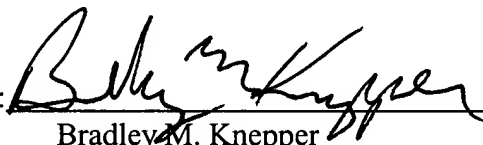
to the expected amplitudes. A signal indicating the detection of a defect may be generated if a sampled value is less than the corresponding expected value. For further information regarding a method and apparatus used to detect flaws in storage media, see U.S. Patent Application No. 09/848,089 filed May 2, 2001, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FLAW DETECTION IN SYNCHRONOUS SAMPLING (PRML) READ CHANNELS USING POST PROCESSED DIGITAL FILTERS" to Curtis Egan, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would assist in the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

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Date: July 13, 2001